
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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GREGG SECURES \$400,000 FOR THE MUSIC HALL IN PORTSMOUTH

Funds in spending measure headed to President's desk

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that \$400,000 in funding for improvements and renovations to The Music Hall in Portsmouth is included in the Fiscal Year 2004 Interior Appropriations Conference Report approved by Congress this week. The measure is now headed to the White House for the President's signature. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and the FY04 Interior Appropriations Conference Committee, Senator Gregg was able to include the funding for The Music Hall in the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures budget.

Senator Gregg stated, "The importance of The Music Hall extends far beyond the dozens of performances enjoyed by visitors and residents of the Seacoast Region every year. The impressive line-up of performers who have walked across the stage at the Music Hall is a virtual 'who's who' of famous American entertainers over the last 125 years. These funds will help restore the Hall, which hosted over 70,000 patrons last year, and preserve a valuable piece of the heritage of our State."

Gail VanHoy Carolan, President of the Board of Trustees for The Music Hall, stated, "This is certainly one of the most exciting days in the history of The Music Hall. How gratifying in this 125th anniversary year to have our own theater recognized as one of America's historic gems. On behalf of the board, members, sponsors and staff, I want to thank Senator Gregg and his team for this \$400,000 match award from the federal 'Save America's Treasures' program. Since 1988 this community has worked tirelessly to keep The Music Hall's doors open and stage lit, to present the very best of the performing arts for the community's enrichment. While we still count on the community's contributions for operating funds, this generous grant is a wonderful jumpstart for a future capital campaign aimed at historical preservation and modernization of our beloved hall."

Jameson French, a founding trustee and an original Friend of The Music Hall, stated, "I speak for many of us in thanking Senator Judd Gregg for recognizing the cultural and historical value of The Music Hall, and for stepping forward to help us protect our rich and unique heritage here on the Seacoast. This generous grant should serve as a catalyst for community involvement and commitment to the arts."

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